マイガール

佐原ミズ

Pleasure To Live With You...

1

MY GIRL

僕も言えなかったから——。
ごめんって、陽子さんに……。

マイガール

佐原ミズ

Pleasure To Live With You...

カバーデザイン　竹内亮輔

BUNCH COMICS
マイガール
佐原ミズ
新潮社

9784107713254
ISBN978-4-10-771325-4
C9979 ¥533E
1929979005337
定価：本体533円（税別）
雑誌　47554-30

寂しがりの僕たち二人、
親子、始めます——。

笠間正宗・23歳 独身…子持ち？ 桜の季節、最愛の恋人を亡くした。幼い少女と出逢い、恋人が内緒で育てた実の娘と知った。人生最悪の春は、切なくも鮮やかな春に変わった。凸凹親子の優しい新生活 第1集。

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live With You...

MIZU SAHARA

MY GIRL
マイガール
Pleasure To Live With You...
SAHARA MIZU
The 1st Day: Good-bye and Hello

KAZAMA-SAAAN, ARE YOU THERE?
ALREADY WENT TO WORK, HMM...?
THIS WON'T FIT IN HIS BOX...
VROOM...
IT'S ALREADY BEEN THREE YEARS...
SINCE I STOPPED CHECKING THE MAIL.

BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
THE POINT OF PASSING TIME IN THIS COUNTRY TOWN...
SCATTERED WITH FLOWERING FIELDS OF GREENS...
...I'VE FORGOTTEN NOW WHAT IT WAS...
KRM

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live With You...

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MIYAMOTO SCHOOL

KAZAMA-KUUUN...

WHAP

OW!

That hurt...

I'M NOT GOING TO GO TO A HOSTESS CLUB.

ARE YOU FREE TODAY?

Tch!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH GOING OUT?

WHY NOT?

I'VE NEVER SEEN A GUY STAY FIXATED FOR FIVE YEARS ON A GIRL AFTER BEING DUMPED BY HER.

YOU'RE ONLY 23, RIGHT?

All right, give it a rest.

DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?

KAZAMA.

I DON'T WANT TO BE TOLD THAT BY THE SENPAI WHO ALWAYS GETS HIS PAY FLEECED BY A MONEY-GRUBBING HOSTESS!

AH, HERE IT IS!

OH...?

LISTEN, THE HEAD OF THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT WAS REPLACED.

SO THE BUDGET WE'VE GOT IN THE PLANNING COMMITTEE ISN'T AS TIGHT.

SO,

IT WAS DECIDED THAT WE'D TRY OUT SOME PROJECTS THAT WERE SHELVED A WHILE BACK.

IT'S THE LADYBUG MECHANICAL PENCIL YOU CAME UP WITH.

HERE, LOOK.

IT TOOK QUITE A WHILE, BUT WE'RE GOING TO PRODUCE IT.

OH! YES...

HUH?

AREN'T YOU HAPPY?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

LIAR!

SHE ATTENDED THE AFFILIATED UNIVERSITY, AND THE FIRST TIME I MET HER...

I CHECKED AT THAT STORE, BUT THEY WEREN'T SELLING IT!

HUH?

THAT!

THAT MECHANICAL PENCIL!

...WAS RIGHT AFTER I STARTED HIGH SCHOOL.

UH... BUT I REALLY DID BUY IT THERE...

NOT LIKE THAT! THERE WASN'T ONE WITH A LADYBUG!

HUH...? OH, THAT...

I LOST THE CAP, SO...

I MADE IT MYSELF. I TRIMMED THE ERASER, YOU SEE, SO...

JEEZ! YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME EARLIER!

Tch!

HMPH

UMM. WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO MAKE ONE FOR YOU?

.....

UH... SURE.

WOULD YOU?

YOUKO.

HUH?

I DON'T WANT YOU TO FORGET, SO WRITE IT DOWN.

CLACK

WHAT'S YOURS?

TSUKAMOTO YOUKO

THAT'S MY NAME

BACK THEN

KAZAMA MASAHIRO

I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT

KAZAMA-

THAT I REALLY STOOD A CHANCE WITH HER, SINCE SHE WAS FOUR YEARS MY SENIOR.

IT'S THE MOTHER OF SOMEONE CALLED TSUKAMOTO YOUKO..

UMM

OH OKAY WHO IS IT?

THERE'S A CALL FOR YOU ON LINE THREE.

KAZAMA-SAAAN.

TSUKAMOTO YOUKO ?

DO YOU KNOW HER?

SNUFF

SNUFF

TSUKAMOTO

WAS IT AN ILLNESS?

OR A SUDDEN ACCIDENT?

SHE WAS WORKING SO HARD ALL BY HERSELF, STUDYING ABROAD AT THAT UNIVERSITY, RIGHT?

SHE WAS SO YOUNG...

SNUFF

SNUFF

I'VE DECIDED TO GO STUDY ABROAD.

YOU DONT HAVE TO WAIT FOR ME.

EH?

BUT...

AND IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU TO BE FREE FROM NOW ON

AND I MIGHT DECIDE TO GET A JOB THERE_

WELL, I DONT KNOW WHEN I'LL COME BACK

BUT_

....

I'LL WAIT...

STILL ...

...I'LL WAIT FOR YOU.

EVEN IF WE'RE NEAR EACH OTHER WE MIGHT DOUBT EACH OTHER OR FIGHT...

Oomphh

I HATE THAT SORT OF THING

THE MORE DISTANT WE ARE THE MORE LIKELY IT IS TO HAPPEN

Yes, all done!

IT'S POINTLESS. I DON'T THINK IT'LL WORK

EVEN SO...

...I'LL WAIT.

MY HAND...

IT'S COLD

?

YOUR HAND?

I'M NOT GOING TO [illegible] OR ANYTHING

I'LL...

WAIT...

I'LL ALWAYS_

BE WAITING...

FOR YOU, YOUKO-SAN, SO...

KAZAMA... SAN?

CLACK...

I'M SURE I'VE CAUSED YOU DESPAIR, SO I DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT I SHOULD HAVE COME...

NO...

I'M GLAD YOU CAME.

NOT AT ALL...

FROM NOW ON.

I'M SORRY I DIDN'T KEEP IN CONTACT, MA'AM..

AH.

IT IS YOU..

YOUKO. SHE HAS.

A DAUGHTER, WHO'S ALMOST FIVE

TO TELL THE TRUTH..

ABOUT THAT..

FIVE YEARS

I SEE

BUT ACCORDING TO YOUKO... WELL...

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU THIS SO SUDDENLY..

WELL WHAT I MEAN, IS

WHAT...?

(—)

SHE SAID THE FATHER WAS..

I WROTE HER A LETTER. PRACTICALLY EVERY DAY

EVERY DAY.

...YOU, KAZAMA-SAN

BUT...

I NEVER RECEIVED A RESPONSE IN MY MAILBOX

I WOULD ENCLOSE THEM WITH THE LETTER, AND I KEPT ON SENDING THEM, LIKE A FOOL

ANY SMALL LADYBUG ITEMS I FOUND,

FOR TWO YEARS, I CONSOLED MYSELF

COMING UP WITH VARIOUS REASONS LIKE

"SHE'S PROBABLY JUST BUSY."

THAT WAS THE SPRING OF THE THIRD YEAR

SOME PART OF MY HEART WAS SET AT EASE

WHEN I HEARD THAT REASON FOR HER SO BRUSQUELY CUTTING OFF CONTACT WITH ME

FROM THE TEACHERS' GOSSIP, I... DISCOVERED THAT SHE HAD FOUND WORK ABROAD

I KNOW THAT WITHOUT YOU TELLING ME

YOU'RE DEFINITELY BEING USED.

YES

THAT'S WHY I SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE, TOO

AND GAVE YOUR NAME TO HER PARENTS AS AN EXCUSE?

DOESN'T IT SOUND LIKE SHE CARELESSLY GOT PREGNANT STUDYING ABROAD ..

I MEAN, A WHOLE FIVE YEARS WITHOUT ANY NEWS FROM HER, AND SUDDENLY THERE'S A KID?

PLEASE DON'T MOCK ME...

IF THAT WERE TRUE.. WOULDN'T YOU NORMALLY CONTACT SOMEONE...

ABOUT SOMETHING THIS IMPORTANT?

OH!

PLEASE TELL THE DIVISION HEAD THAT I HAVE TO TALK WITH THE PEOPLE IN SALES, SO YOU CAN GO HOME ONCE YOU'RE DONE

I SHOUTED THAT AND WENT HOME

HMM. YOU'VE GOT IT PRETTY ROUGH, TOO.

ALRIGHTY!

OH!
KAZAMA-SAN

I
ABOUT YOUR LADYBUG PRODUCT..
THE PRODUCT TESTERS' REACTION WAS GREAT

OH
That one..
REALLY..

..ALL RIGHT..
THE PERSON I ALWAYS WANTED TO SHOW IT TO.
PLEASE CREATE ANOTHER LADYBUG PRODUCT, OKAY?

Ah sure thing
Please take care of this.
Good work.

DIED THE MOMENT THAT IT FINALLY STARTED GOING WELL..

?
IS SOMEONE CRYING?

=HIC=
=SOB=
..?

THE WORLD JUST ISN'T FAIR.

?

WHACK

OW!

WHERE'S IT COMING FROM

WH- WHAT ARE YOU DOING? GET DOWN FROM THERE, IT'S DANGEROUS!

HEY!

BUT IT GOT STUCK UP THERE.

Ack!
WHAT ON EARTH AM I DOING..
MY SPECIAL STRING TELEPHONE
SIGH...
THE STRING CAME OUT..
WHAT?
DON'T TELL ME IT'S BROKEN?
CAN YOU FIX IT?
CAN I SEE IT FOR A MOMENT?
IF THAT'S ALL, IT'S FINE

H-.. HELLO? HI THERE.

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

UH... UMM...

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I'M KOHARU.

AH, I SEE KOHARU-CHAN.

DID ANYTHING GOOD HAPPEN TODAY, KOHARU-CHAN?

UH... WELL, THEN...

DID ANYTHING GOOD HAPPEN YESTERDAY?

ER WELL... HOW TO SAY THIS

HOW ABOUT RIGHT NOW, WITH ME..?

GIGGLE

THAT'S A STRANGE QUESTION.

YEAH, I GUESS SO.

I CAME TODAY TO GIVE SOMEONE A PRESENT FROM MY MAMA.

REALLY? THAT'S A BIG RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOMEONE SO LITTLE

I SEE ..

BUT I CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY AND NOT BE ABLE TO SAY T..

.....

THAT'S WHY I CAME IN HER PLACE

NO, THAT'S NOT IT IT'S A SECRET, BUT MY MAMA .S A WIMP

SHE ALWAYS HID THINGS SHE WANTED TO SAY, SO I MADE HER A STRING TELE-PHONE SO SHE COULD SAY T SECRETLY

BUT IN THE END, I COULDN'T GIVE IT TO HER

ACTUALLY, I'M UPSET THAT I COULDN'T SAY WHAT I WANTED TO SAY, TOO

THAT'S NOT GOOD! YOU HAVE TO SAY IT!

OR YOU'LL END UP JUST LIKE MAMA!

PHEW! I'M GLAD YOU HAVEN'T GONE HOME YET

!

KAZUMA-SAAAN!

IT'S THE FEEDBACK ON THE LADYBUG PIECE

I FORGOT TO GIVE IT TO YOU

OH YOU COULD'VE WAITED UNTIL TOMORROW

THANK YOU

AH...

SHE WAS CRYING OVER THERE EARLIER

OH, I WAS SURPRISED!

I THOUGHT SHE WAS YOURS, KAZAMA-SAN

OH? IS THIS CHILD.

...LADY-BUG?

KAZA... MA?

KAZAMA MASAMUNE?

EH...

I

UM YEAH

I AM, BUT ?

LADYBUG MASAMUNE-KUN!

I_ I FOUND YOU!

I...

WHA

HERE, IT'S FOR YOU

FROM MY MAMA.

The 1st Day:FIN

To: Masamune-kun
From: Youko

DON'T TELL ME THIS GIRL IS...
YOUKO...
YOUKO-SAN'S DAUGHTER...!?

NOT LONG SINCE I FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU.

WHAT, YOU STILL MIGHT FORGETTEN ABOUT HER?

IF I HAD DONE AS EVERYONE TOLD ME TO, AND JUST FORGOTTEN HER,

IN MY HEART OF HEARTS, I WAS TOO SCARED TO GO SEE IF IT WAS TRUE

EVEN IF I MADE A SHOW OF KNOWING THAT,

HOW DO I HAVE BEEN ABLE

..TO RESPOND TO THIS BETRAYAL WITH A SMILE?

TURN

HELLO, KAZAMA SPEAKING

Kazama-san?

Well, this is Tsukamoto again, Youko's mother....

!

OH...

UMM...

I'm terribly sorry for being so inconsiderate before...

And about Koharu ...

!

That's the name of Youko's daughter, that I told you about before...

She... well, she vanished off somewhere...

Perhaps she went to see you...

I couldn't explain the situation to her very well...

She still thinks you're her father, so...

...

YES

OKAY

ALL RIGHT, THEN

I'LL SEE YOU SOON

BEEP

WHO WAS ON THE PHONE?

IT WAS YOUR GRANDMA

. . .

I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME YET

YOU HAVE TO

YOUR GRAND-MOTHER IS WORRIED

AND I HAVE TO GO HOME MYSELF...

SHE'LL COME TO GET YOU SOON

MASAFUMI-KUN...

DO YOU HATE ME?

WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY, IS..

EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING..

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU HEARD FROM YOUKO-SAN, BUT ..

WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER

IT'S .. IT'S NOT A MATTER OF HATING YOU OR ANYTHING ..

SMACK !

WAI-... HOLD ON...

TEAR

EH...

WHAT WAS..

OWW...

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW!

WAIT A-..

AH...

JEEZ...

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

FLIP

?

WHAT'S THIS? LOOKS PRETTY OLD A LETTER?

WH-

WHAT ARE THESE?

LETTERS FROM YOUKO-SAN?

AD-DRESSED TO ME?

ALL...

OF THEM?

WHY...?

WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS...?

How are you? Thanks for all of the letters, Masamune-kun

I decided that I wouldn't ever tell you

When I was told I would have Kahara, I was really happy, but

The reason I decided to go abroad

CONGRATULATIONS!

SO YOU'RE TWO MOVING ALONE

It wasn't really because I wanted to study abroad, or because there was something I really wanted to do or anything.

Because I know that when I was in high school, I thought the future was full of so many things I wanted to see

If you knew, you would choose to limit your future for my sake, wouldn't you?

But you're such a responsible person.

If you're worried about me, don't be

I'm perfectly fine

I'll secretly hide away all my regret in your letters

I'm perfectly fine

That's a lie

very scared

I don't have the slightest bit of confidence

Wheeze

Wheeze wheeze

Truthfully

So lonely

EVEN THOUGH I KNEW

EVEN THOUGH I KNEW BETTER THAN ANYONE..

CLENCH

THAT YOU LOVED LADYBUGS,

AND ABSO-LUTELY HATED LOS 46

AND HOW VERY MUCH

YOU THOUGHT ABOUT ME

AH.

FAD

WHICH ONE OF US WAS THE CRUEL ONE?

I THOUGHT I HAD BEEN LAST ASIDE,

AND SELFISHLY DREW BACK AND GREW TIMID

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN PERFECTLY WELL

EVEN THOUGH...

HOW HARD IT MUST HAVE BEEN...

ALL ON YOUR OWN—

I CAN'T EVEN APOLOGISE...

I love you, Masamune-kun.

I still...

RUSH

SEE HER AGAIN

Love you..

!

I CAN'T...

KO-KOHARU-CHAN!?

KO-

KOHARU-CHAN?

KOHARU-CHAN!?

S-SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE. THANK GOD

S-SORRY...

I...

UMM...

EVERYONE SAYS TO FORGET...

I WAS REALLY SAD

AND I CRIED A LOT

BUT

IT WAS A VERY BAD ACCIDENT SO..

THEY SAY I SHOULD JUST FORGET IT QUICKLY

I DON'T THINK I WANT TO FORGET MAMA

HURRY UP AND FORGET HER, KAZAMA_

SHE'S ALREADY...

FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU.

I WANTED TO MEET YOU, MASAMUNE-KUN...

BECAUSE YOU KNOW HOW TO LIVE WITHOUT MAMA, DON'T YOU?

MASAMUNE-KUN'S NOT HERE?

LONELY WITHOUT MAMA?

DO YOU HATE HER NOW?

DID YOU...

FORGET ABOUT MAMA?

I WANT TO LIVE HERE SOMEDAY

SO MASAMUNE-KUN,

THAT'S FINE. I WANT TO LIVE HERE.

EHH?

IT'S NOTHING BUT FIELDS, THOUGH, ISN'T IT?

SOMEDAY, LET'S LIVE HERE TOGETHER.

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT MOVING COUNTLESS TIMES, BUT...

...I NEVER COULD..

IT'S SURROUNDED BY NOTHING BUT FIELDS.

IT'S TWENTY MINUTES FROM A TWENTY-YEAR-OLD TRAIN STATION

IT'S NOT A GREAT PLACE..

MY HOUSE ISN'T FAR FROM HERE...

IT WAS LONELY, EVERY DAY

JUST ONE WORD

JUST HEARING ONE WORD FROM HER..

MADE ME HAPPY...

LONELY, AND PAINFUL...

SO MUCH SO THAT THERE WERE SO MANY TIMES THAT I JUST

WANTED TO FORGET

I... I WANT TO BE WITH THE PERSON WHO LOVED MAMA..

I .. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO LIVE...

WITHOUT YOUKO-SAN ..

THE KIND OF DAYS YOU'LL BE LIVING FROM NOW ON..

BUT...

THOSE I DO KNOW...

I'M NOT COMPLETELY POSITIVE I CAN BUT

I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU THE HELP YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

IF YOU HAVE THE SAME FEELINGS...

D-

DO YOU WANT

TO TRY LIVING TOGETHER?

YES

The 2nd Day:FIN

THIS IS MY DAY

I WAKE UP AT AN EASYGOING 8 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

AND WORK LEISURELY AT THE COMPANY UNTIL 6 IN THE EVENING

AND TO PASS TIME UNTIL I TURN IN FOR THE NIGHT..

I WATCH BASEBALL ON TV OR A MOVIE ALONE

MASAMUNE-KUUUN!

UNTIL JUST YESTERDAY

THAT'S HOW I SPENT THE DAY...

HELLO

AND THERE'S DAY-CARE FOR TWO-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS RIGHT NEXT DOOR, SO SHE CAN STAY THERE FOR A WHILE..

BUT I'VE JUST FOUND A KINDER-GARTEN THAT PROVIDES LUNCH,

IT'S A BIT FAR,

ABOUT KOHARU-CHAN..

I... I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HER, BUT... UH

I SEE

BUT I WONDER IF IT WIL.. BE ALL RIGHT.

THE ONE I'M WORRIED ABOUT IS YOU, KAZAMA-SAN

NO, THAT'S NOT IT

EH...?

I...

I'VE NEVER TAKEN MUCH CARE WITH HOW I PASS MY DAYS.

AND BESIDES ..

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUSH YOURSELF TH.S HARD..

I CAN SEE THAT THIS IS QUITE A BURDEN FOR YOU

IF IT'S BECAUSE YOU FEEL GUILTY TOWARDS YOUKO, PLEASE JUST VALUE YOUR OWN TIME..

THAT IS..

THE ONE WHO WAS BEING SUPPORTED MIGHT HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN ME

.. THAT SHE WAS THERE FOR ME

NOW I'M REALLY GLAD...

WELL THEN,

I'LL TAKE [redacted] OF HER FROM NOW ON

ALL RIGHT

IT MAY BE DIFFICULT, BUT PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HER

FROM NOW ON!

THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF ME

KOHARU-CHAN, GREET HIM PROPERLY

"THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF ME."

WHO RAISED HER ALL ON HER OWN FOR FIVE YEARS...

KYA HAHA!

FOR YOUKO-SAN...

I LOOK FORWARD TO SPENDING TIME WITH YOU

Y-YES, SAME HERE

FAST, FAST!

AND FOR THIS GIRL, WHO SAID THAT SHE WANTED TO LIVE WITH ME...

I...

Yay!

I HAVE TO DO MY BEST...

Whee!

VR

OOM

BRRRING

NEW

THIS IS MY DAY.

AFTER MAKING BREAK-FAST...

Uhh..

Umm.

Delicious Breakfasts

NNNGH

I SOMEHOW GET UP AT SEVEN IN THE MORNING

I'LL WAKE UP KOHARU-CHAN..

Can't drop her off looking like this.

First, get dressed.

GOOD MORNING, MASAMUNE-KUN!

G-GOOD MORNING.
YOU WERE ALREADY UP, KOHARU-CHAN?
YEAH
OH REALLY? WELL THEN, FIRST OF ALL, LET'S HAVE BREAKFAST
OKAY
UH IT'S A BIT SMALL HERE, BUT JUST BEAR WITH IT UNTIL NEXT MONTH, OKAY?
WE'LL MOVE TO A BIGGER PLACE ON THE FIRST FLOOR THEN
AFTER EATING BREAKFAST, I FINISH GETTING DRESSED
AND LEAVE HOME AT 8:30
TUG
WELL, THIS ISN'T TOO BAD AT ALL.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO
CAN YOU BRAID MY HAIR?
HUH...?

I... I CAN'T LET THIS BEAT ME...

09 : 21 AM

SIX. WHEN'S THAT?

EH? SIX?

UHH...

OH...

SEE THAT CLOCK?

IT'S WHEN THE SMALL HAND ON IT POINTS AT THE SIX

...KINDER-GARTEN ENDS AT THREE.

BUT I WON'T COME AND GET YOU UNTIL SIX

SO GO OVER TO PLAY WITH THE LADY AT DAY-CARE IN THE BUILDING NEXT DOOR UNTIL THEN, OKAY?

PLEASE LOOK AFTER HER FOR ME.

OKAY, KOHARU-CHAN, BE A GOOD GIRL

.....

I I DON'T TH NK OF HER AS TROUBLE OR ANYTHING. AND SHE'S NOT OBNOXIOUS AT ALL, SHE S WELL-BEHAVED AND ALWAYS SMILING

HOW DO YOU PLAN ON SUP-PORT.NG SOME OBNOXIOUS KID?

YOU'RE AN IDIOT, AREN'T YOU?

EH...

I DON'T THINK I CAN TODAY.

WE'RE GOING OUT TONIGHT

WE'RE GOING DRINKING WITH HAYASHIDA-SAN FROM DEPARTMENT STORE

KAZAMA!

DON'T DECIDE THAT ALL ON YOUR OWN!

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A WELL-BEHAVED KID

WHAT, YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO DO?

IT'S FOR THE LADYBUG PRODUCT YOU CAME UP WITH

THEY'RE GOING TO THE TROUBLE OF STOCKING IT IN THEIR STORES

YOU HAVE TO GO

OH... ALL RIGHT..

EIGHT O'CLOCK, AT THE REGULAR RESTAURANT.

...YES, SIR.

I'M SURE THIS WILL KEEP HAPPENING IN THE FUTURE

I CAN'T GET THIS UNSETTLED EVERY SINGLE TIME IT HAPPENS..

I HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE OFFICE AGAIN TONIGHT

WE CAN GO HOME NOW, BUT ..

OH ..

. . .

MASA-MUNE-KUN, ARE YOU DONE WITH WORK?

CAN WE GO HOME NOW?

UH .. YEAH. ABOUT THAT..

DASH

TWELVE? THAT'S WHEN THE SMALL HAND POINTS AT TWELVE?

YOU CAN'T SLEEP ALONE, CAN YOU?

I PROBABLY WON'T BE BACK UNTIL AROUND TWELVE.

DO YOU WANT TO GO TO GRANDMA'S NOW?

WILL YOU REALLY BE OKAY?

EH .. BUT ..

UH .. YEAH THAT'S RIGHT

OKAY I'LL WAIT AT HOME, THEN!

YEAH.

ASK FOR ANOTHER BOTTLE OF SAKE!

MORE SAKE.

HEY, KAZAMA!

HA HA HA!

OKAY!

I'M SURE SHE'S ALREADY ASLEEP...

I DON'T WANT TO CALL AND WAKE HER UP...

tick...

tick...

tick...

BR-R' RING

BLINK

!

!?

I'LL HELP YOU MAKE BREAKFAST!

GOOD MORNING, MASAMUNE-KUN!

POP

SH-

UR~~~~~~~~~~GH

KOHARU-CHAN WAS PROBABLY STUNNED

THEY MADE ME DRINK, AND AFTER THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING.

WHAT TIME DID I COME HOME, AGAIN...?

SHIIIIT!

I'M AN UTTER FAILURE FROM DAY ONE!

KAZAMA-SAAAN, CALL ON LINE TWO

YES, HELLO?

CLACK!

Ah, Kazama-san!

HUH?

WHY...

It's... Koharu-chan...!!

Koharu-chan fell from the slide, and she's hurt...!

We're having a doctor look at her right now...

...CAUSE PROBLEM AFTER PROBLEM?

WHY DO I...

THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY, IT'S ONLY A BUMP ON THE HEAD

SHE ALREADY WENT BACK TO PLAY AGAIN JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO

Phew

ONLY...

...DOES SHE SEEM SLEEPY?

I HEARD THAT SHE FELL ASLEEP AT THE TOP OF THE SLIDE AND FELL

EH...?

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, MA'AM

EVEN AFTER I SAID THAT I WOULD TAKE CARE OF HER

IT'S MY FAULT THAT THIS HAPPENED TO KONARU-CHAN..

I'M SORRY

I'VE MADE AN INEXCUSABLE OFFENCE TO YOUKO-SAN'S MEMORY BY THIS

I'M SORRY, YOUKO-SAN...

EVEN THOUGH... EVEN THOUGH YOUKO-SAN WORKED SO HARD ON HER OWN

I'M SO.. SO SORRY

I'M SORRY...

chuckle chuckle

S-SORRY, KAZAMA-SAN

BUT YOU'RE

EH...?

PFFT!

...EXACTLY LIKE YOUKO.

IT'S ENOUGH, KAZAMA-SAN..

YOUKO MADE SO MANY MISTAKES IN THE BEGINNING

I.. CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER HOW MANY TIMES SHE CALLED ME FOR HELP

EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS SO PROUD THAT SHE DECIDED TO RAISE KOHARU ON HER OWN

SHE ALWAYS SAID HOW SHE COULD NEVER DO RIGHT BY YOU

YOU'RE DOING YOUR BEST, AND THAT'S ENOUGH..

LOOK..

IT'S A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE SHE HAD, LOSING ONE OF HER PARENTS AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE, RIGHT?

..IT'S JUST..

IN FRONT OF ME, SHE NEVER..

TH-THAT CAN'T BE..

THAT CHILD.

SHE'S ALWAYS ALONE WHEN SHE'S OUTSIDE

SHE DIDN'T PLAY W.TH ANYONE YESTERDAY.

BUT JUST WA'TED FOR YOU IN FRONT OF THE CLOCK

I THINK THAT, DEEP DOWN,

SHE REGARDS WAITING FOR YOU AND YOUKO AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING ELSE

IS WHAT WILL HELP MAMA MOST...

IF BEING QUIET AND WAITING...

BUT SHE MUST BE SCARED NOW..

S.NCE THE PERSON SHE WAS WAITING FOR SUDDENLY DIDN'T COME BACK ONE DAY

SHE WAS SO SCARED,

SHE COULDN'T SLEEP...

.....

BUT...

I... DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THAT...

THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD'VE KNOWN

YOU ONLY JUST MET.

TREASUR-ING... AND CHERISHING ONE ANOTHER

ISN'T THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING?

IT'S FINE IF YOU GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HER LITTLE BY LITTLE.

FOR ME TO BE THE ONE TO RAISE HER?

IS IT REALLY OKAY...

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF YOU GO SEE HER

TAP...

KOHARU-CHAN...

K-

MASAMUNE-KUN!

WHAT'S WRONG!?

I'LL PUNISH THEM FOR YOU!

DID SOMEONE SAY SOMETHING MEAN TO YOU?

CAN WE GO HOME NOW?

ARE YOU DONE WITH WORK?

IT'S NOT SIX YET

WHAT'S WRONG, MASAMUNE-KUN?

DASH

IT'S FINE...

I'M ALL RIGHT...

END

THIS IS MY DAY...

I COME HOME WITH KOHARU-CHAN,

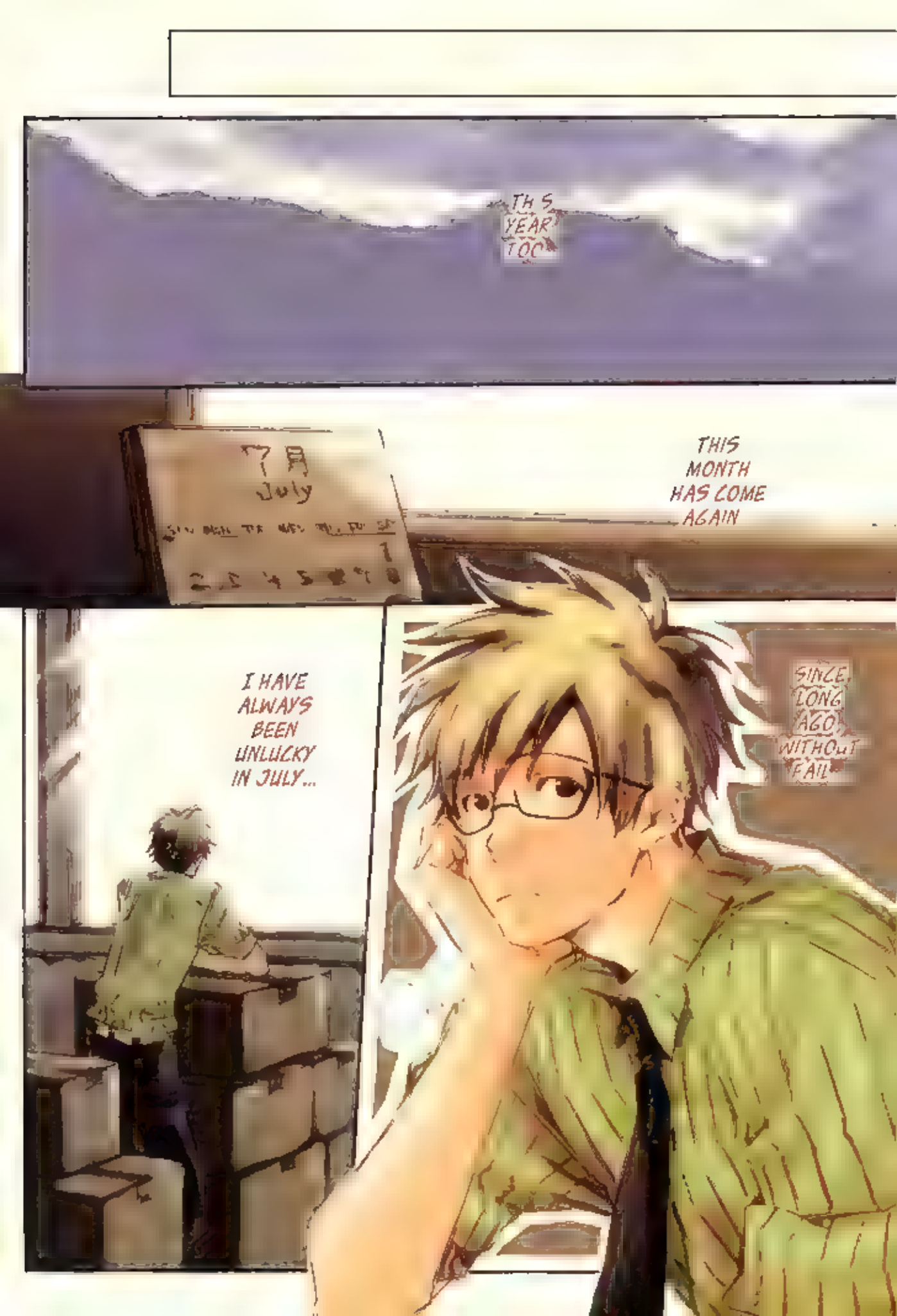
AND UNTIL WE FALL ASLEEP,

WE TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED DURING OUR DAY, BE IT ONE THING, OR MANY

THAT'S MY NEW WAY...

OF SPENDING THE DAY.

The 3rd Day:FIN


THIS YEAR TOO
7月
July
THIS MONTH HAS COME AGAIN
I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN UNLUCKY IN JULY...
SINCE LONG AGO WITHOUT FAIL

The 4th Day:
July Melancholy

MY GIRL

RETURNED GOODS?

ALL OF THESE.

HOW COULD THIS SPOTTED LADYBUG MECHANICAL PENCIL POSSIBLY BE SOLD?

NOW NOW DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT

THIS HAPPENS A LOT

THAT RIGHT? BUT I EXPECTED THIS

DESPITE THE GOOD CONSUMER RESPONSE

AS I EXPECTED

BUT, WELL, DON'T EXPECT A SUMMER BONUS.

HA HA HA!

THIS IS BAD.. KOHAKU-CHAN'S VARIOUS SCHOOL EXPENSES...

I WAS COUNTING ON GETTING A BONUS

LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE WORKING MORE OVERTIME

KAZAMA!

STARTING TODAY YOU'LL BE WORKING OVERTIME WITH A SALES REP

SO THAT THE LADYBUG WILL SELL A BIT BETTER

"I GUESS I DON'T EVEN NEED TO REQUEST TO WORK OVERTIME"

TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR...

HOW I WONDER...

I'M SORRY, SENSEI

BUT THE FIRST SUNDAY IN JULY .S AN IMPORTANT DAY

KOHARU-CHAN

WHAT'S WRONG? LET'S AL. S NG TOGETHER

WHAT'S THIS?

WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT IT?

OH?

SO I HAVE TO DO THIS

IT'S A SECRET

THAT DAY, YOU KNOW... IT'S THE DAY THAT MAMA TREASURED

EVER SINCE WAY BEFORE I WAS BORN

EH? THAT'S TOO BAD

IF YOU WON'T, THEN I'LL TELL YOU A TINY B.T

THEN YOU WON'T TELL ANYONE?

SO! I'LL DO IT STARTING JULY OF THIS YEAR

IN MAMA'S PLACE...

I WILL...

T/N. IT IS CUSTOMARY TO ADDRESS YOUR SPOUSE'S PARENTS AS MOTHER/FATHER IN JAPAN

MASAMUNE-KUN WHY ARE YOU WORKING SUNDAY TOO?

DON'T WORRY I'LL TAKE CARE OF KOHARU-CHAN

THANK YOU, MOTHER

SO, YOU'LL BE AWAY UNTIL SUNDAY? MUST BE DIFFICULT

I'M SORRY, KOHARU-CHAN I MADE A HUGE MISTAKE AT WORK..

B- BUT..

UMM... SUNDAY IS.. JULY 2ND IS..

A-... ALL RIGHT..

IT'S TOO BAD, KOHARU-CHAN, BUT.. YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO HOUSE-SIT WITH ME.

WELL THEN, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HER FOR ME.

VR MM...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, KOHARU-CHAN?

JULY 2ND...

EH?

NO KIDDING ...

I WANTED TO GET SUNDAY OFF AT LEAST..

REALLY, IT SEEMS LIKE HE BIT OFF MORE THAN HE COULD CHEW

HUP!

GUYS WITH NO TALENT SHOULD STAY OUT OF IT

JULY LAST YEAR...

H-

HEY!

WELL, WE'LL GO DO SOME OUTSIDE WORK

KAZAMA-SAN, CAN YOU SEND AN EMAIL TO THOSE PEOPLE IN THE FILE OVER THERE?

UH... UMM...

WHAT WAS IT...?

AH...

AH, THAT'S RIGHT

WELL, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF IT!

AND I SPENT EVERY NIGHT ALONE

I NEVER CAME CONVENIENCE STORE EVERY DAY TO COO DON'T EVEN THOUGHT DON'T TELL A BUT ANYTHING

BEFORE THAT I FELL DOWN THE STAIRS AND FRACTURED MY LEFT FOOT

clack

THE YEAR BEFORE THAT MY BRAND A DIED

clack clack

MY APARTMENT'S SEWER PIPE EXPLODED AND THERE WAS A COCKROACH INFESTATION

BEFORE THAT...

clack

clack

RRRING...

BEFORE THAT

CLICK-

Later!

Doo—

Doo—...

Next week again

I forgot to send the data to Maruyama san. so take care of it for me!

Thank you very much for working so hard right up to your birthday!

Ah!

Masa-mune-kun!

SENPAI?

YES?

I FORGOT...

MY BIRTHDAY

7

SU

2

THAT'S RIGHT... TODAY IS

YOU'RE GOING TO BE STUCK IN PREP SCHOOL ALL JULY?!

WHY!?

"WHY"? FOR THE TIME BEING I'M A STUDENT PREPARING FOR EXAMS.

OH, FINE!

?

Hmph!

Tch.

?

?

BECAUSE BOTH OF MY PARENTS WORKED,

I DIDN'T HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH THINGS LIKE BIRTH-DAYS, EVER SINCE I WAS VERY YOUNG

CLANK

SCHOOL

?

CHATTER

FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME, SHE...

THAT'S REALLY POORLY WRITTEN, ISN'T IT?

WHO WROTE IT?

H...

HELLO?

Ha-

Happy birthday to you!

.....

YOUKO-SAN, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE BAD AT SINGING?

Happy birthday to you!

Happy bir

Haha.

Shut up!

BACK THEN, MY JULYS...

WERE HAPPY...

RRRING...

Oh! Kazama-kuuun! ♡ So you're still at work? ♡

AGAIN!?

YES?

clack

WELL... COULD YOU SEND THE DATA TO YOSHIDA-SAN TOO?

ALSO, I DIDN'T PUT HER ADDRESS IN MY COMPUTER...

SO COULD YOU GO AHEAD AND LOOK FOR IT YOURSELF?

Huh!?

DIDN'T I PUT YOSHIDA-SAN'S BUSINESS CARD INSIDE MY BAG ?

Meh

WAH, IT'S SO MESSY!

Which one?

This guy

Well, thanks for helping!

CLICK

doo — doo —

FWAP

JEEZ, WHY AM I DOING THIS?

EH ?

I WONDER WHAT THIS IS...

Ah, Kazama-kun! Come to think of it, what time do you finish today?

Aren't you coming too?

Y-

YES?

rrring

CLACK

NO THANKS!

QUIT IT AL-...

CLACK

RRRING...

Happy birthday to you!

Happy birthday to you...

UMM...

THEY REALLY ARE

IT'S OKAY...

I'M SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU AT WORK, KAZAMA-SAN..

HELLO?

KOHARU-CHAN SAID IT HAD TO BE TODAY NO MATTER WHAT..

BUT...

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER AFTER ALL...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

Happy birthday mas

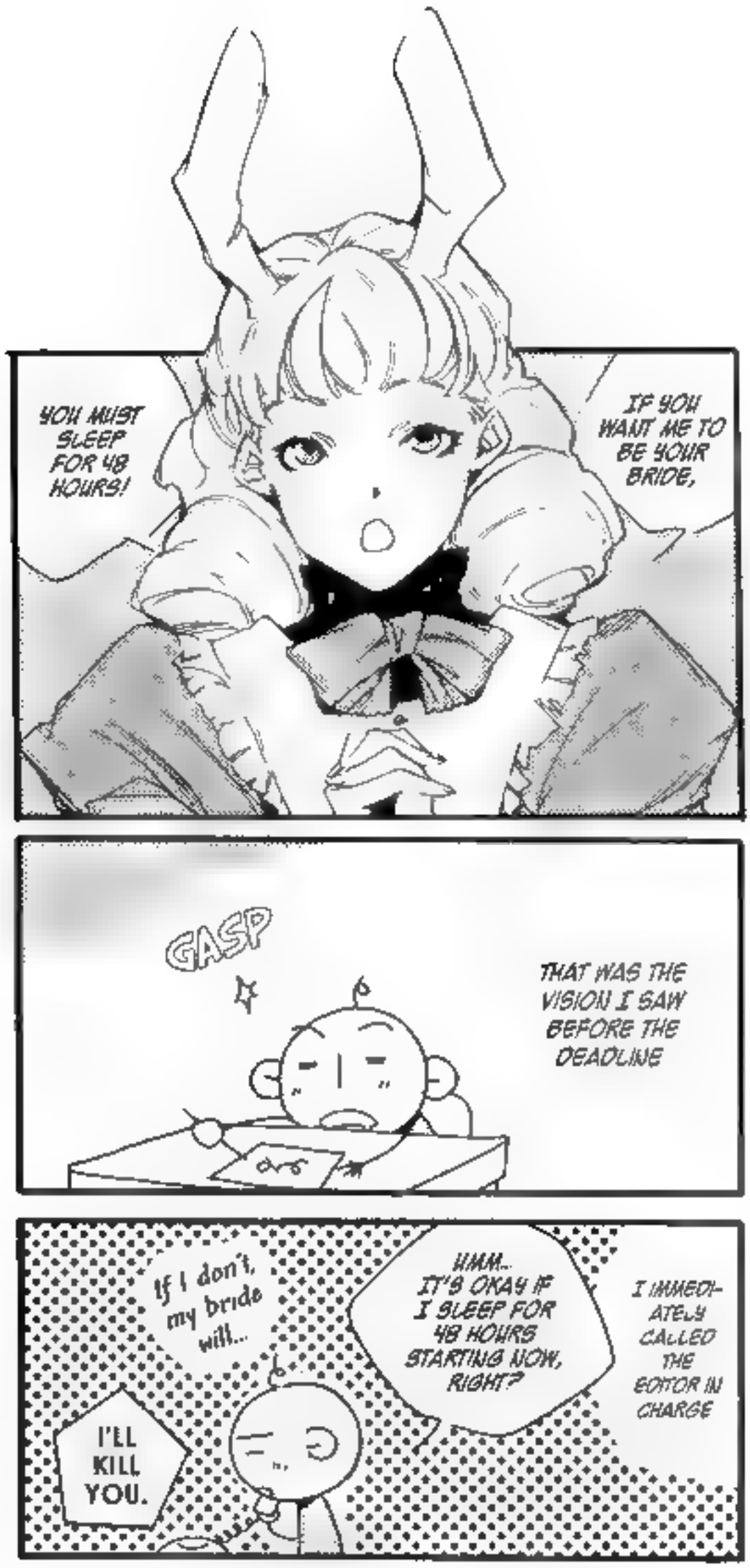
Happy birthday

KOHARU

I'll put Koharu-chan on.

AH... PLEASE DO..

The 4th Day:FIN


YOU MUST SLEEP FOR 48 HOURS!
IF YOU WANT ME TO BE YOUR BRIDE,
GASP
THAT WAS THE VISION I SAW BEFORE THE DEADLINE
If I don't, my bride will...
I'LL KILL YOU.
UMM... IT'S OKAY IF I SLEEP FOR 48 HOURS STARTING NOW, RIGHT?
I IMMEDIATELY CALLED THE EDITOR IN CHARGE

The 5th Day: Joy and Sorrow

BUS STOP

UWAH...

BZZZZZ

BZZ BZZ...

IT'S SUMMER VACATION

KOHARU-CHAN, I'M SORRY

WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT A WHILE. WILL YOU BE OKAY?

THERE ARE ONLY TWO BUSES PER HOUR..?

RIGHT NOW, WE'RE HEADED TO MY GRAND-MOTHER'S HOUSE

YES.

THAT'S BECAUSE, A FEW DAYS AGO...

I certainly do but saying it that way...

UNTIL I DIE, YOU SAY...

And you still don't have a girlfriend, right? I wonder if you'll be able to marry...

Even though our neighbor Yamamoto-san already has grandchildren... Ah, we're so unlucky.

Your dad and I are busy with work, so we can't make it.

You have enough paid vacation to last until you die, right?

WHAT? MOM...

EH? THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF GRANDPA'S DEATH?

That's right. Anyhow you're free, right?

Well then, take care of your granny!

Click

ACTUALLY I

AHH! The train's here!

A-

ABOUT THAT...

WHAT THE... JEEZ...

doo— ...

doo— ...

What the hell?

Why am I surrounded by these kinds of people?

IF IT'S GRAND-CHILDREN YOU WANT, YOU ALREADY HAVE ONE

THUNK

..BUT..

THE PERSON I WANTED TO BE MY WIFE IS ALREADY GONE

WA AA AH!

JEEZ, THIS KID...

WAAA

I WANT SOME-THING TO DRINK!

MOOOM! I'M THIRSTY! WAAAAH

I

WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT?

COME ON, DON'T CRY.

KOHARU...

COME ON, DON'T CRY.

KOHARU

MAMA

OKAY. WAIT A MINUTE.

KOHARU-CHAN

!

SHOULD WE GET SOMETHING TO DO ME TOO?

YEAH

Y-

GLANCE

CLUCK
CLUCK
CLUCK
CLUCK

Graaandma!

...

GRAAANDMA!

IT'S BEEN AWHILE!

GOOD HEAVENS! MASAMUNE!

OH MY!

I SEE, SO SHE'S YOUR DAUGHTER

YEAH.

MY, MY, SHE'S LOVELY.

ch-ching

CLUCK CLUCK CLUCK CLUCK

I WISH I COULD'VE MET YOUKO-SAN...

BUT...

IT FEELS LIKE A LONG TIME HAS PASSED SINCE GRANDPA DIED...

FOR BOTH YOU AND THE GIRL.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN VERY DIFFICULT...

BUT ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT ON YOUR OWN, GRANDMA?

.....

LATELY..

I'VE BEEN TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT YOUKO-SAN.

...

I'M FINE..

AFTER ALL,

HE LEFT ME SO MANY GOOD MEMORIES...

I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO SUPPORT HER LIKE THIS

BECAUSE EVEN AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I DON'T HAVE ANY FAITH IN MY ABILITY TO TALK ABOUT YOUKO-SAN IN FRONT OF KOHARU-CHAN.

AND LOOK LIKE I'M ALL RIGHT.

IF I COMPARE HOW THINGS WERE BACK THEN WITH NOW, I FIND MYSELF REGRETTING A LOT AND FEELING EMPTY

NO MATTER WHAT, I STILL END UP THINKING THAT I'M LONELY

EVEN IF YOU'RE "ALL RIGHT," THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE NOT LONELY.

I WONDER WHY PEOPLE SUFFER LIKE THIS EVEN THOUGH...

BOTH JOY AND SORROW ARE FLEETING THINGS THAT OCCUR EVERY DAY

IT'S ONLY NATURAL...

TO FEEL LONELY AFTER THE ENJOYABLE MOMENTS PASS

BUT AS YOU EXPERIENCE NEW JOYS...

THOSE FEELINGS OF SORROW WILL START TO FADE.

IN THAT WAY,

YOU'LL BECOME HER SUPPORT IN LIFE.

JOYFUL EXPERI-ENCES...

...WILL MAKE ALL THOSE FEELINGS OF LONELINESS WORTH IT

...

NO MATTER WHAT EXPRES-SION YOU WIND UP WEARING..

YOU CAN TELL THAT GIRL ABOUT THE YOUKO-SAN YOU KNOW, MASAMUNE

AND THEN,

YOU CAN MAKE...

...LOTS OF GOOD MEMORIES...

GROOOWR!

WHOOOO!

THEN WHY DID YOU LAUGH?

I WAS SCARED. VERY SCARED

AHAHA!

watermelon rind

HUH? YOU'RE NOT SCARED?

EVEN THOUGH GRANDMA WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF MAKING IT FOR ME

HMM ..

IF YOU DO THAT, YOU WON'T BE SCARED ANYMORE

WHEN I'M SCARED, I LAUGH ON PURPOSE.

TH-

THEN...

WH-

WHAT ABOUT WHEN YOU'RE LONELY?

YEAH ..

TALKING TO OTHER PEOPLE MIGHT MAKE IT EASIER...

HMM.. WHEN YOU'RE LONELY, HUH...?

SAYING YOU FEEL LONELY WHEN YOU'RE LONELY..

BUT THAT WAS PROBABLY WRONG OF ME

I-IN THE PAST, I JUST STAYED QUIET AND ENDURED IT,

I... I'M SORRY. I DON'T REALLY KNOW.

What am I saying?

EVEN THOUGH IT'S NIGHT, IT'S RATHER BRIGHT OUT

THE MOON IS HANGING REALLY LOW TONIGHT, ISN'T IT?

MASAMUNE-KUN, CAN YOU REACH IT WITH YOUR HANDS...?

LET'S TAKE IT AND HAVE GRANDMA... MAKE A MASK WITH IT!

ONE SCARIER THAN THE WATERMELON ONE!

UH...

I JUST NEED TO REACH A LITTLE FURTHER..

BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE I CAN

THAT'S TOO BAD..

YEAH.

.. ..

I WONDER WHY THERE ARE THINGS I CAN'T DO EVEN IF I TRY MY BEST

HUH?

HEY, MASAMUNE-KUN.

W- WELL. I.. SOME-TIMES ..

AHAHA!

I WANT...

I WANT TO SEE MAMA...

I KNOW IT'S HOPELESS.

BUT I WANT TO SEE HER..

EVEN THOUGH BEING WITH MASAMUNE-KUN IS FUN..

I WANT... hic- TO SEE MAMA...

I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD DO. hic-

I WONDER WHY..

YOU WANT TO SEE MAMA TOO, MASAMUNE-KUN?

IT-.. IT'S PATHETIC OF ME, BUT..

I-

I'M SORRY.

Ha.

I'VE ALSO BEEN WONDERING WHAT I SHOULD DO ABOUT IT...

I...

WANT TO SEE HER TOO...

S-... SO,

I HAVE A SUGGESTION.

I DON'T KNOW.

ABOUT THE YOUKO-SAN FROM THE FIVE YEARS WE WERE APART, RIGHT?

AND WHEN YOU WANT TO SEE HER,

I'LL TELL ONE THING ABOUT YOUKO-SAN FROM BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.

SO WHEN I WANT TO SEE YOUKO-SAN...

WILL YOU TELL ME ONE THING ABOUT THE YOUKO-SAN YOU KNOW, KOHARU-CHAN?

WE'LL FEEL JUST A LITTLE BIT LESS LONELY, DON'T YOU THINK?

THAT WAY

WON'T WE RUN OUT OF THINGS TO TELL EACH OTHER?

B-BUT WHAT IF I WANT TO SEE HER EVERYDAY?

Haha

WE WON'T RUN OUT.

THEN I'LL ALWAYS

B-BUT, WHAT IF I ALWAYS WANT TO SEE HER?

TALK ABOUT HER...

OKAY
I GOT IT

KASHAK
KASHAK
KASHAK
KASHAK
KASHAK
I LOVE THE SIMPLICITY OF THE SOUND THAT THE SHUTTER ON MY DAD'S OLD CAMERA MAKES.
THERE'S FILM IN IT?
I JUST PUT NEW FILM IN IT...
HEY, HAVE YOU SEEN MY CAMERA?
I PUSHED THE BUTTON ABOUT 20 TIMES!
EEK!

KRRRK KRRRK
KRRRK KRRRK
I LOVE THE SOUND OF WINDING UP MY DAD'S OLD CLOCK

Huh?
MIZU, COME HERE FOR A MINUTE!
The crank is missing!
Eeeek!

The 6th Day:
A True Father...

..-SAN

KAZAMA-SAN.

ZZZ

ZZZ

ZZZ

ZZZ

ZZZ

IT'S A NEW SEMESTER

YES?

COULD YOU PLEASE KEEP YOURSELF FROM SNORING?

HNN...

KAZAMA-SAN!

HUH?

Snor- ?

THIS HAS BEEN DRAGGING ON FOR THREE HOURS SINCE NOON

MOTHERS OF THIS GENERATION ARE PRETTY DIFFICULT...

I...

I'M SORRY ..

I WONDER IF HIS CHILD WILL BE OKAY, WITH A FATHER LIKE HIM...

BUT ISN'T HE A SINGLE FATHER?

EEH!?

IT SEEMS THAT HE WAS A COLLEGE STUDENT UP UNTIL LAST YEAR

BY THE WAY, KAZAMA-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO PREPARE FOR EXAMS?

HUH?

MURMUR

ARE YOU SAYING YOU HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT?

N-...NO, THAT'S..

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHA

WE'VE HAD OUR GIRL GO TO CRAM SCHOOL AND TAKE PIANO AND VIOLIN LESSONS..

AND DO BALLET AND SWIMMING AS WELL

SHE'S HAD A PRIVATE TUTOR SINCE SHE WAS TWO

SCOLDING, COMPARING, BRAGGING...

THE CURRENT EDUCATIONAL DEBATE..

BUT LESSONS ...?

I WONDER IF KOHARU TOOK ANY WHILE SHE WAS ABROAD..

I want to go home...

AS I THOUGHT, MOTHERS OF THIS GENERATION ARE PRETTY DIFFICULT...

sigh...

AH, BUT FIRST I SHOULD FIGURE OUT WHAT TO MAKE FOR DINNER...

I'LL ASK KOHARU-CHAN WHEN WE GET HOME TODAY

AND I CERTAINLY HAVE TO THINK ABOUT UNIVERSITY, TOO

YESTERDAY WAS GINGER-FRIED

LET'S SEE..

mumble mumble

...-SAN

KAZAMA-SAN!

Y-...

YES.

ARE YOU LISTENING TO WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING, KAZAMA-SAN?

clank

clank

rattle rattle

WELL THEN, EVERYONE ...

.....

YOUR PAPA IS SO LAME!

HMM? WHAT WAS THAT, SHUU-KUN?

HER PAPA DOZED OFF AND GOT SCOLDED!

MY PAPA IS TALL, AND SMART, AND HE'S A PUBLIC PROSECUTOR!

HE'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM MY PAPA!

Heh

GRR

HMPH

DIDN'T YOUR MAMA DOZE OFF AND DIE, TOO?

YOUR MAMA, WHO CHOSE HIM, WASN'T MUCH EITHER, WAS SHE?

H-.. HAH!

I-... I'M SORRY I'M LATE,

KOHARU-CHA-

SLIDE

THUD THUD

...-N.

....

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT IT'S NOT GOOD TO FIGHT

KO-.. KOHARU-CHAN..

SHOULD WE GO TOGETHER TOMORROW TO APOLOGIZE ?

EVEN IF SOMEONE SAYS MEAN THINGS TO YOU,

I STILL DON'T THINK IT'S OKAY TO RAISE YOUR HAND AGAINST SOMEONE..

..I'M NOT GOING.

IT WASN'T MY FAULT.

BUT...

THAT WON'T DO.

NO!

WE REALLY SHOULD GO.

I WON'T GO!

I HATE YOU TOO, WHEN YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT, KOHARU-CHAN!

I HATE YOU WHEN YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT, MASAMUNE-KUN!

GASP

SNIFF...

D-... D'AMMIT...

A sad distance

FWIP

KO-...

KOHARU-CHA-..

I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO WHAT KOHARU-CHAN WAS SAYING.

IT WAS A MISTAKE FOR ME TO GET ANGRY LIKE THAT

DO FATHERS OF THIS GENERATION NOT GET ANGRY NOWADAYS?

.....

I WONDER WHAT..

AT A TIME LIKE THIS..

YOUKO-SAN WOULD DO...

I WONDER IF SHE'D BE UNEASY IF SHE SAW ME RIGHT NOW..

SUKK

THE THE WEATHER IS NICE TODAY, ISN'T IT, KOHARU-CHAN?

chirp chirp

I guess it's no use, huh...?

I'll leave him in your care.

Good morning.

AH ..

UMM, YOU ..

Meh

HMPH

GOOD MORNING, SHUU-KUN

YO.

GOOD MORNING, SENSEI...

UMM.. THE PARENTS OF THAT CHILD JUST NOW ..

OH... YOU MEAN SHUU-KUN?

HE OFTEN COMES ALONE IN THE MORNING.

HIS PARENTS BOTH WORK.

WELL, REGARDLESS, IT SEEMS HIS MOTHER AND FATHER ARE SEPARATED...

SO NOW HE LIVES TOGETHER WITH HIS FATHER...

THANK YOU.

I'D LIKE TO GET HIS FATHER'S CONTACT INFORMATION ...

WELL, SINCE IT SEEMS LIKE HE WAS HURT IN THE FIGHT YESTERDAY,

OH, IN THAT CASE, PLEASE COME TH.S WAY

OH, MY..

KAZAMA-SAN IS LATE TODAY..

tick tick

SHUU-KUN,

THERE'S A PHONE CALL FROM YOUR PAPA.

FROM..

FROM PAPA!?

G-GIMME!

HELLO, PAPA?

HURRY!

YEAH. YEAH.

YEAH.

.....

.....

OH..

OKAY...

SENSE., PAPA IS GOING TO BE AT WORK LATE, SO I'M GOING HOME ALONE.

OH? WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT, SHUU-KUN?

YEAH

GOOD-BYE.

.....

HIC

HIC
HIC

WH-

WHAT DO YOU WANT, THUG GIRL?

IF YOUR DAD'S GOING TO BE LATE COMING HOME,

WHY DON'T YOU COME TO MY HOUSE?

WH-

WHY DO I HAVE TO GO TO YOUR LAME PAPA'S PLACE!?

THAT'S RIGHT. MY PAPA IS WAY COOLER!

I'M...

I'M NOT...

LONELY AT ALL!

INCE-

CAUSE. MY PAPA

INC-

IS REALLY GOOD. AT HIS JOB

hic-

PAPA IS...

AND. AND ..

hicc-

BAD, THIS IS BAD..

I'M SO LATE...

CREAK

!

The 6th Day:FIN

The 7th Day: Unable to Say Sorry

IT'S GREAT THAT THE TWO OF YOU MADE UP WITH EACH OTHER!

WELL!

ALL RIGHT LET'S WASH YOUR HAIR NOW, AK-KUN.

ONCE YOU ACCEPT THAT YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING WRONG AND SAY SORRY, YOU CAN MAKE UP WITH EACH OTHER

SPLASH

YUP!

I ALWAYS WASH IT ON MY OWN

AND I'M NOT APOLOGIZING, EITHER

N-.. NO THANKS

OH!

THANK YOU!

I'LL WASH YOUR BACK, MASAMUNE-KUN!

I... I SEE.

SCRUB SCRUB

!

THEN,

I'LL WASH AKI-KUN'S BACK.

SCRUB SCRUB SCRUB

.....

SCRUB SCRUB

I... I SAID I CAN DO IT MYSELF!

GRR!

Hahaha

COME, NOW, YOU'RE OUR GUEST TODAY.

I COOKED OMURICE* FOR DINNER TODAY.

AND I DREW PICTURES OF AKI-KUN'S AND KOHARU-CHAN'S FACES ON THEM WITH KETCHUP!

*OMURICE AN OMELETTE LAID OVER FRIED RICE

.. ...

AKI-KUN, IS THIS OKAY? YOU DON'T DISLIKE OMURICE, DO YOU?

IT

IT'S FINE...

THEN, THIS ONE ...

...IS YOUKO-SAN'S.

OH!

YOU DREW MAMA'S FACE TOO!

Ha ha ha!

YEAH

DOES IT LOOK LIKE HER ?

.....

EVEN THOUGH SHE'S GONE...

...SHE'S STILL IMPORTANT TO YOU?

HUH?

...OH.

YOU MEAN YOUKO-SAN?

YES, SHE IS.

SHE'S STILL VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.

.....

HMM...

OH, DON'T WORRY SOMETIMES HE'S BUSY WORKING AND DOESN'T EVEN COME HOME

I'VE CALLED BOTH YOUR HOUSE AND YOUR FATHER'S CELL PHONE, BUT I STILL ONLY GET THE ANSWERING MACHINE...

OH, THAT REMINDS ME

DING DONG

!

WHO COULD IT BE ..?

?

!

CREAK

YES.

CLACK

WHO IS IT?

AKI!

EH...?

MA-

I APOLOGIZE FOR COMING SO LATE.

WH-WHY ARE YOU HERE, MAMA!?

I WENT BACK TO THE HOUSE TO GET MY BAGS

MAMA!

I'M...

HMM, MAYBE..

DID AKI-KUN'S MAMA AND PAPA MAKE UP?

HEY, MASA-MUNE-KUN, IS THAT AKI-KUN'S MAMA?

AND I HEARD THE MESSAGE ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE SAYING YOU WERE HERE...

IN THE END, HE PUTS HIS JOB FIRST AND LEAVES YOU ALL ALONE...

I WAS SO SURPRISED! REALLY, WHAT ON EARTH IS HE DOING?

!

B-BUT MAMA...

I CAN'T TRUST HIM WITH YOU ANYMORE!

AKI, COME WITH MAMA!

ME- MEGUMI ...

AH ... YOU...

IT WAS YOUR FAULT I LEFT!

UH- UMM.

EXCUSE ME

SHUT UP!

UM EXCUSE ME

I'M TAKING HIM BACK WITH ME!

I CAN'T TRUST YOU WITH AKI.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LEFT! NOW YOU WANT TO JUST COME BACK AND—

DON'T THINK YOU CAN JUST DO AS YOU PLEASE!

HEY! WHERE ARE YOU TRYING TO TAKE AKI!?

ME? WHAT ABOUT YOU!? WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING ALL THIS TIME!?

PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE! BY THE WAY, I JUST HAVE ONE SMALL SUGGESTION!

EXCUSE ME! MY NAME IS KAZAMA MASAMUNE! MY DAUGHTER, KOTARU, GOES TO THE SAME [redacted] AS YOUR SON!

.....

CO-COULD WE PLEASE CONTINUE THIS DISCUSSION INSIDE?

POSE

M-

MASAMUNE-KUN

IT-

IT'S ALL RIGHT, KOHARU-CHAN

WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S ALL TALK! HAVEN'T YOU BEEN NEGLECTING AKI?

SO WOMEN ...

ONLY ACT LIKE A MOTHER WHEN IT'S CONVENIENT, HUH?

HMPH

THAT'S MY LINE!

I'M ASHAMED OF MYSELF FOR EVER CHOOSING SOMEONE LIKE YOU!

MARRYING YOU WAS THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF MY LIFE!

REALLY, YOU TWO! THIS DISCUSSION YOU'RE HAVING RIGHT NOW...

WHOSE SAKE IS IT FOR?

IS IT FOR YOURSELVES? FOR AKI-KUN?

ALTHOUGH YOU ARE HUSBAND AND WIFE, YOU ARE DIFFERENT PEOPLE

YOU WON'T HAVE THE SAME OPINION ON EVERY-THING

IF ALL YOU DO IS ARGUE WITHOUT TRYING TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, THEN YOU'LL ONLY HURT EACH OTHER

!

RIGHT NOW YOU'RE TOO CLOSE TO EACH OTHER, SO YOU TH.NK YOU CAN SEE EVERYTH.NG,

BUT IN REALITY, SOMET.MES IT'S WHEN YOU'RE CLOSEST THAT YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTH.NG

SO THIS IS GOODBYE

I'M SORRY, MASA-MUNE-KUN

I'VE DECIDED TO STUDY ABROAD.

I MISS YOU.

I'M LONELY, MASAMUNE-KUN...

BUT .

I .. I'VE ONLY BEEN A FATHER FOR HALF A YEAR...

WHY DON'T YOU CALM DOWN AGAIN AND TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND AT AKI-KUN?

SO I CAN'T REALLY CRIT.CIZE YOUR PARENTING

WHA...

YOU'VE ONLY BEEN A FATHER FOR HALF A YEAR? WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY KNOW?

THAT'S RIGHT! STOP MAKING ASSUMPTIONS AND LOOKING DOWN ON US

AKI IS ALREADY FIVE HE UNDERSTANDS OUR SITUATION

WE KNOW QUITE WELL WHAT'S IMPORTANT WITHOUT YOU TELLING US

B-BUT

I DON'T WANT TO BE LECTURED BY SOMEONE WHO HAS BARELY RAISED A CHILD.

MASAMUNE IS A GOOD PAPA!

AKI-KUN?

EH

EVEN THOUGH KOHARU'S MAMA IS FAR AWAY IN HEAVEN, MASAMUNE STILL TREASURES HER

NOT LIKE PAPA AND MAMA, WHO AREN'T HAPPY ABOUT BEING NEAR EACH OTHER

EVERYDAY AT 6 O'CLOCK.

HE RUNS TO PICK KOHARU UP FROM DAY CARE

EVEN THOUGH HE'S A MAN

HE'S A REALLY GOOD COOK

HE'LL APOLOGIZE TO KOHARU A LOT.

AND IF HE'S EVEN A LITTLE LATE, HE'LL SAY SORRY.

MASAMUNE TAUGHT ME THAT.

YOU CAN MAKE UP WITH EACH OTHER.

ONCE YOU ACCEPT THAT YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING WRONG AND SAY YOU'RE SORRY.

THAT'S WHY...

THAT'S WHY I'M TEACHING IT TO PAPA AND MAMA TOO!

.....

AKI-
KU ..

AKI...

I'M SORRY, MASAMUNE!

BUT TODAY I'LL APOLOGIZE, SO PLEASE LET THIS GO

IT'S NOT LIKE THEY FIGHT ALL THE TIME

PAPA AND MAMA ARE BOTH REALLY NICE PEOPLE

.....
I'M SORRY ...

I WONDER IF AKI-KUN'S PAPA AND MAMA WILL APOLOG ZE TO EACH OTHER AND MAKE UP

HEY, MASA-MUNE-KUN,

WE'LL SEE...

BUT

WHEN YOU GET OLDER, YOU END UP NOT BEING ABLE TO SAY THE ONE THING YOU WANT TO

PROBABLY BECAUSE AS YOU EXPERIENCE MORE THINGS, YOU GROW GREEDIER IN SPITE OF YOURSELF

AND BECOME LESS CONSIDERATE OF OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS.

HOW COME?

I WONDER WHY COULDN'T I BELIEVE IN YOU BACK THEN

I'M NO GOOD. I COULDN'T SAY IT EITHER.

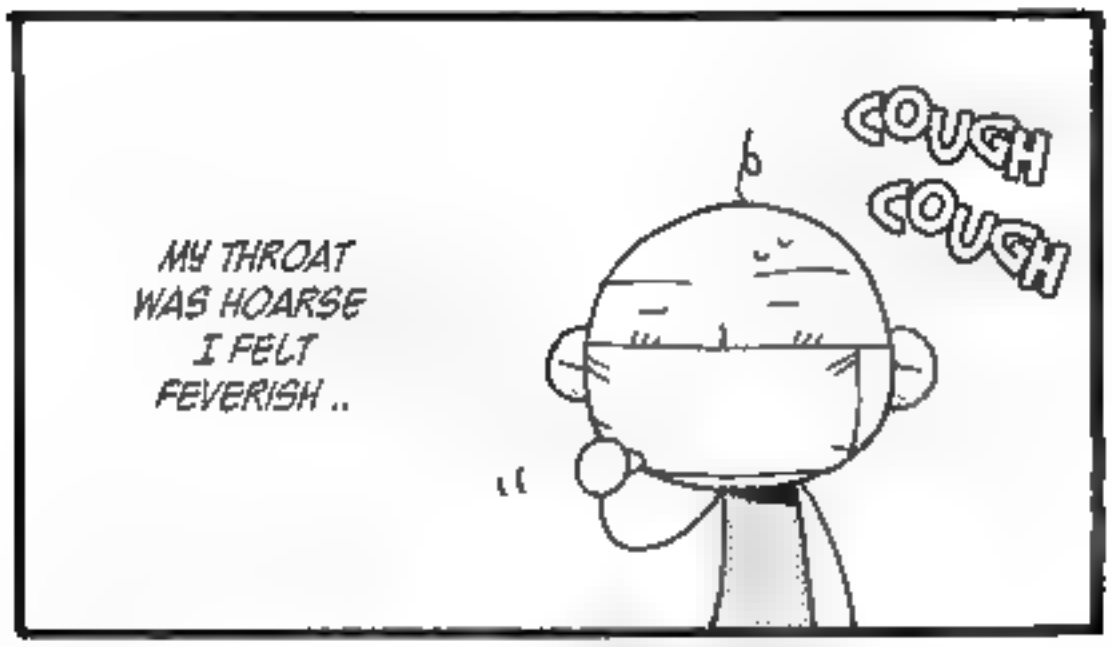
THAT'S WHY AKI-KUN AND KOHARU-CHAN ARE REALLY GREAT!

WHAT ABOUT MASA-MUNE-KUN?

SAY, "I'M SORRY".

TO YOUKO-SAN..

The 7th Day:FIN


MY THROAT WAS HOARSE I FELT FEVERISH ..
COUGH COUGH

I WAS TOLD TO DRINK SAKE TO STERILIZE MY THROAT.
HERE, CHUG THIS DOWN.
Ugh ..

It hurts!
It hurts!
IT BURNED ALL THE WAY DOWN TO MY STOMACH...

AT LEAST LET US KNOW BEFOREHAND IF YOU'RE GOING TO COME HOME!
OKAY, BUT...
...I JUST CAME OVER TO BORROW DAD'S CAMERA.
KAZAMA
KOHARU-CHAN IS IN THE PLAY AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY THIS WEEKEND
IF YOU'D LIKE, WHY DON'T YOU AND DAD COME TOO?
KOHARU-CHAN?
OH MY! DID YOU FINALLY GET A GIRLFRIEND?
HUH?
SHE'S MY DAUGHTER.
Haha
THAT'S NOT IT.

The 8th Day:
What is Happiness?

MY GIRL

BA

I NEED TO PICK UP KOHARU-CHAN FROM KINDERGARTEN, SO I'M HEADING HOME!

JUST A MINUTE, MASAMUNE!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

I WAS PLANNING ON TELLING YOU ABOUT IT, BUT YOU ALWAYS HANG UP ON ME BEFORE I CAN GET TO IT!

ARE YOU AN IDIOT!?

YOU DIDN'T EVEN CONSULT ME ABOUT SOME-THING THIS IMPORTANT!?

I'M HOME ...

STOMP

STOP RIGHT THERE, MASAMUNE!

HEY... H-

STOM

BYE.

DAD, I'M BORROWING YOUR DIGITAL CAMERA.

HUH?

?

?

H-

HONEEEY

BA

JUST A-...

M

OH...
MASAMUNE HAS A KID.

YOU'RE BEING AWFULLY FLIPPANT ABOUT IT...

Ha ha ha...

WOW, THAT'S A SURPRISE.

I THOUGHT I HAD RAISED A KID WITH COMMON SENSE..

..IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN BETRAYED.

WELL, I GUESS I'LL GO TOO, THEN

SINCE YOU PUSH YOUR OPINIONS ON OTHER PEOPLE TOO MUCH SOMETIMES.

I COULDN'T EVEN ASK ABOUT THE WOMAN HE HAD THE CHILD WITH

AT ANY RATE, I'M GOING TO MASAMUNE'S TOMORROW TO SEE WHAT HE HAS TO SAY ABOUT TH.S

BUT.

ISN'T IT A PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CORRECT THE MISTAKES THEIR CHILDREN MAKE?

IT'S PROBABLY A LITTLE TOO EARLY TO BE DECIDING THAT THIS IS A MISTAKE.

OH? SUDDENLY HAVING TO TAKE CARE OF A 5-YEAR-OLD KID AT ONLY 25?

THERE'S NO WAY IT COULD BE ANYTHING BUT A MISTAKE.

WELL, WE'LL GO AND SEE TOMORROW.

DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD HOLD OFF MAKING JUDGMENTS UNTIL THEN?

TSUKAMOTO

MY, MY, HOW CHARMING.

MASAMUNE-SAN REALLY IS HANDY

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME BORROW YOUR SEWING MACHINE...

LOOK. LOOK. GRANDMA!

DO I LOOK LIKE A REINDEER?

MY MOTHER IS TERRIBLE WITH THIS SORT OF THING, SO SHE DOESN'T HAVE ONE

I'D ALSO LIKE TO VISIT TO MEET THEM ONCE, BUT.

HOW DID IT GO?

MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU WENT TO YOUR PARENTS' HOUSE TODAY, DIDN'T YOU?

IT'S NO PROBLEM.

N-NO... IT'S ALWAYS THAT WAY

OH MY, THAT'S TERRIBLE

WELL, THAT THAT IS...

I'M AFRAID WE HAD A LITTLE FIGHT..

MY MOTHER IS NARROW-MINDED, YOU COULD SAY

SHE'S THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO DOESN'T SHOW ANY UNDERSTANDING FOR ANYONE'S OPINIONS OTHER THAN HER OWN

B-BUT.

WE CAN JUST LEAVE HER ALONE AND THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY PROBLEM.

DON'T SIT SO CLOSE TO THE TV!

IT'S BAD FOR YOUR EYES

Eek!

AH!

I CAN SAY THIS NOW, SINCE IT'S AFTER THE FACT...

...BUT I WAS ALSO VERY OPPOSED TO A LOT OF THINGS YOUKO DID

!!!

YES?

SAY, KAZAMA-SAN...

GRADUALLY TIME PASSED,

AND WHEN I FINALLY FELT LIKE TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THINGS FROM HER POINT OF VIEW...

...SHE WAS ALREADY GONE

I DON'T WANT YOU OR YOUR MOTHER...

...TO HAVE ANY REGRETS ...

PLEASE DON'T SAY SAD THINGS LIKE "LEAVE HER ALONE"

EVEN SO

I GUESS PARENTS ARE PIG-HEADED WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR OWN CHILDREN.

IT'S TERRIBLE, ISN'T IT

REGRETS? HUH...?

NO, IT'S MY DAD'S

OH KAZAMA DID YOU BUY A CAMERA? NICE!

AT ANY RATE, DIGITAL CAMERAS NOWADAYS

IT'S GOT SO MANY FUNCTIONS THAT I CAN'T EVEN FIGURE OUT HOW TO USE IT

HE'S A POOR PHOTOGRAPHER

I'm jealous!

OH, IS YOUR DAD A CAMERAMAN?

.....

KAZAMA-SAN!

THERE ARE VISITORS WAITING FOR YOU IN THE LOBBY!

HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE
YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE, DEAR
I I'M SORRY, MASA-MUNE
WE'LL MAKE THIS QUICK, SO
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH TROUBLE YOUR RASH DECISIONS ARE CAUSING FOR PEOPLE AROUND YOU . ?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!
YOU WERE A COLLEGE STUDENT UNTIL JUST RECENTLY I'M SAYING IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO BE A FATHER
I KNOW.
AS CONCERNED WITH APPEARANCES AS YOU ARE, I'M SURE IT BOTHERS YOU
HAVING YOUR SON BE AN UNMARRIED FATHER

I WONDER WHAT THE WOMAN YOU'RE WITH IS THINKING

HAVING CHILDREN JUST AS YOU PLEASE IS IRRESPONSI-BLE

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO CALL YOU SOFT-HEARTED OR A BLOCKHEAD, ENDING UP TAKING CARE OF A CHILD LIKE THAT ..

THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN HAPPINESS!

WHA

GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE, THEN WORK AT A COMPANY.

PASSING THE YEARS LIKE THAT, THEN GETTING MARRIED AND HAVING A FAMILY?

WHAT'S YOUR IDEA OF "HAPPINESS"?

YOU THINK THAT IF SOMEONE STRAYS FROM THE ORDINARY PATH, THEY'LL BE COMPLETELY MISERABLE.

BUT I THINK YOU'RE WRONG.

BUT ..
. WHAT KIND OF PARENT WOULD ENCOURAGE HER OWN SON TO GO THROUGH HARDSHIPS WHEN HE DOESN'T HAVE TO?!

I WON'T SAY IT'S NOT HARD.

BUT
..THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL MAKE SOMEONE HAPPY IS THAT PERSON THEMSELF

THAT .. THAT'S ENOUGH
TELL ME THE ADDRESS OF THAT GIRL YOU'RE WITH

!

YOU CAME HERE WITHOUT EVEN ASKING ME THAT
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONE BEING RASH?

I'M NOT GETTING ANYWHERE WITH YOU
I'LL GO MAKE A COMPLAINT TO HER

YOU'RE FREE TO SPECULATE AS YOU WILL, BUT YOU'LL REGRET IT.

LIKE I DID .

I DON'T THINK...

...THERE'S ANY ONE RIGHT WAY FOR A PERSON TO LIVE THEIR LIFE

THE ANSWER IS, I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NONE...

. YOU'RE ASKING ME IF I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE LIFE I'VE CHOSEN

IF..

MOM, DID YOU KNOW?

I APPRECIATE YOUR WARNINGS

...BUT IF JUST ONCE YOU WOULD SAY, "IT'S ALL RIGHT..."

WITH THAT ALONE, WE'LL BE ABLE...

...TO LIVE THE LIFE WE'VE CHOSEN WITH PRIDE.

AH, THANK YOU.

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

BUZ

KAZAMA!

THE SECTION CHIEF IS CALLING YOU!

SORRY, I HAVE TO HEAD BACK

LET'S TALK AGAIN LATER

YEAH

COME TO THINK OF IT, WHICH CAMERA WAS IT

HUFF

THAT MASAMUNE TOOK?

WELL PROBABLY

..THE SILVER DIGITAL CAMERA, I THINK?

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT.

IT'S HAS A LOT OF PARTS, BUT IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WELL

OH, THAT'S NO GOOD

A SINGLE-LENS REFLEX CAMERA THAT USES FILM WOULD BE THE BEST

HE WENT THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE JUST SO HE COULD PHOTOGRAPH HIS GIRL, RIGHT?

I'M NOT BEING SARCASTIC

DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?

RUSTLE

YOU KNOW I'M CLUMSY WITH THINGS LIKE THAT ARE YOU BEING SARCASTIC?

ME!?

OH, I KNOW YOU SHOULD TAKE THE PICTURES FOR HIM

YOU TOOK THIS PICTURE

MASAMUNE'S FIRST SPORTS MEET

I FOUND IT YESTERDAY WHEN I WAS TIDYING UP...

BACK THEN, WE WERE TWO ADULTS,

WRAPPED AROUND THE FINGER OF A FOUR-YEAR-OLD BOY

SEARCHING FOR THE BEST WAY TO RAISE A CHILD.

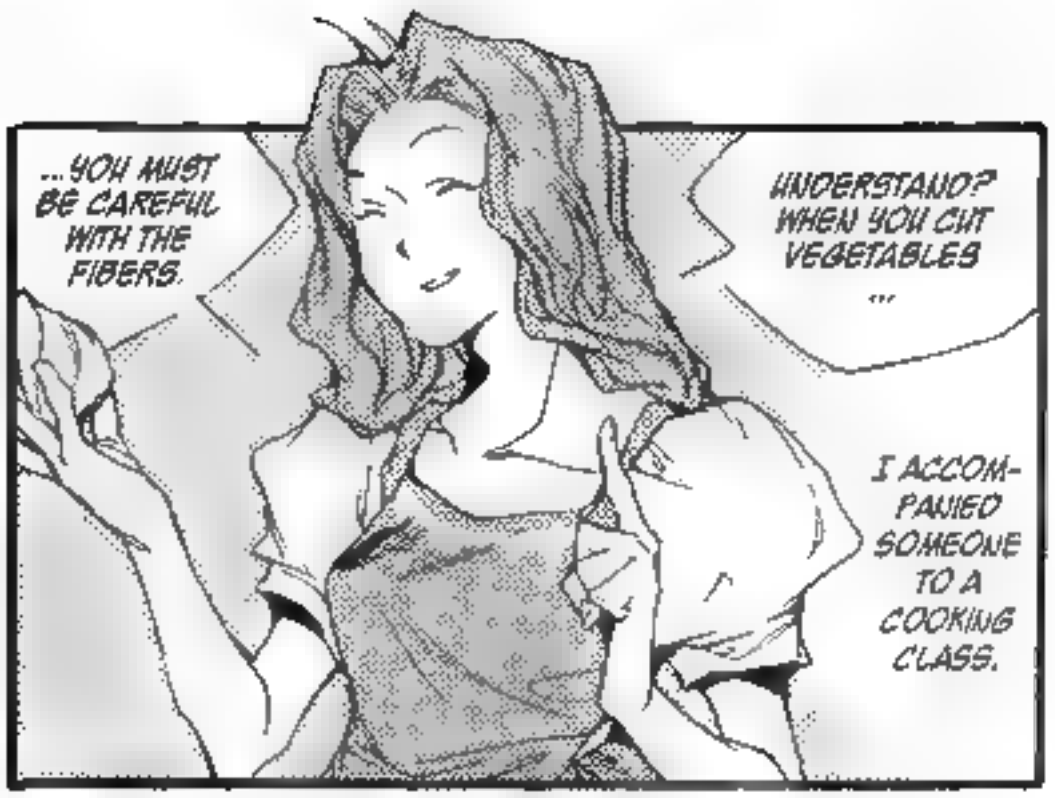
BEFORE I KNEW IT...

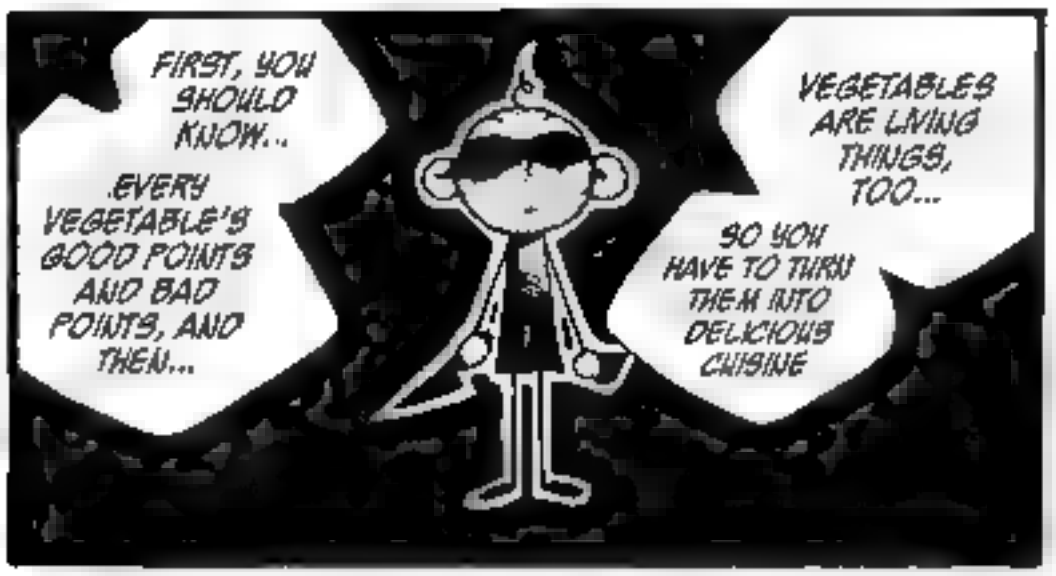
Sigh

...HE WAS ALREADY THIS GROWN UP...

THAT'S RIGHT...
IF THE BOY SAYS HE'S HAPPY
THEN SHOULDN'T THAT BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR US?
BUT

The 8th Day:FIN


...YOU MUST BE CAREFUL WITH THE FIBERS.
UNDERSTAND? WHEN YOU CUT VEGETABLES ...
I ACCOM-PANIED SOMEONE TO A COOKING CLASS.


FIRST, YOU SHOULD KNOW...
EVERY VEGETABLE'S GOOD POINTS AND BAD POINTS, AND THEN...
VEGETABLES ARE LIVING THINGS, TOO...
SO YOU HAVE TO TURN THEM INTO DELICIOUS CUISINE

Hmph, this is good enough.
Rice ball from a convenience store
I COULDN'T DO IT...

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28 29

kaharu-chan's christmas party

COUGH

COUGH

COUGH

WELL, LET'S AT LEAST GO TO THE DOCTOR

wheeze

wheeze

Y-YEAH, BUT IF WE GO, WE'LL END UP BEING LATE

DON'T FORCE YOURSELF, MASAMUNE-KUN.

I CAN GO ALONE.

WOBBLE WOBBLE

B-BUT TODAY IS YOUR SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PARTY.

wheeze wheeze

THEN I'LL GO AHEAD WITH GRANDMA.

COME WHEN YOU CAN

OKAY?

ARE YOU SURE..?

WHEEZE WHEEZE

I'M SORRY, KOHARU-CHAN.

It would be terrible if I gave it to Koharu-chan, too.

So I thought I'd stay at home today, but...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

Y-YEAH

What?

You have a cold too!?

cough

I MUST HAVE GIVEN IT TO YOU THE LAST TIME YOU CAME OVER

I'M SORRY

WHAT...

SNEEZE SNEEZE

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

IS GRANDMA SICK TOO?

SNEEZE SNEEZE

Y-, YEAH

AH, GEEZ, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

AMA

FWAP

Look at these!

OOO

I'M GOING TO BE TAKING PICTURES OF A ROWDY 5-YEAR-OLD GIRL.

BUT EVEN MY STILL-LIFE SHOTS ARE OUT OF FOCUS!

I WANT TO USE THE DIGITAL CAMERA

THERE ARE DIGITAL S.NGLE-LENS REFLEX CAMERAS, RIGHT?

WHY ARE YOU SO SET ON uSING FILM? YOU CAN'T RETAKE SHOTS ON FILM

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

THESE ARE NICE PHOTOS

HMM?

ONE OF THE JOYS OF TAK NG P.CTURES

IS NOT KNOWING EXACTLY WHAT K.ND OF PHOTOGRAPH YOU'RE TAKING

BUT THEN YOU PUT IT IN SOME DEVELOPING SOLUTION

AND GRADUALLY, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THE PICTURE

OF COURSE, YOU'LL MAKE MISTAKES, TOO,

BUT SOMET MES YOU COME ACROSS SOMETH.NG GOOD

SOMETHING BETTER THAN YOU EVER EXPECTED

I HAVE A BUSINESS TRIP TO GO ON

SORRY.

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO ENJOY BEING AN AMATEUR

PLEASE, YOU TAKE THE PHOTOS AT TODAY'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

HUH?

BRRRIIING...

YOU NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT...

H-... HOLD ON!

I'm not running away, but.

AH, MASAMUNE?

HELLO? KAZAMA RESIDENCE.

click

YOU'RE PUSHING THE ENTIRE PARENT-CHILD PROBLEM ON TO ME TO DEAL W TH BY MYSELF AND RUNNING AWAY?

EH?

OH NO! YOU HAVE A COLD?

YES, I'M GOING

B-BUT IT TURNS OUT YOUR FATHER

HUH?

WHAT'D YOU JUST SAY?

wheeze wheeze

COUGH COUGH

ALL RIGHT THEN I'M SORRY, KOHARU-CHAN

AFTER I GO TO THE HOSPITAL, I'LL HEAD STRAIGHT OVER, SO

GRUMPY

COUGH COUGH

wobble

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HER, MOM

mutter

...IT'S JUST LIKE I SAID!

I WARNED H.M THAT HE COULDN'T BE A GOOD FATHER...

mutter

.....

!

I.

I'M SORRY.

I-I HEARD YOU'RE DOING A PLAY TODAY, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN

WHAT'S YOUR ROLE?

YES!

I'M A REINDEER

UH... UMM, YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE!

ER ERM, YOUR NAME IS KOHARU-CHAN, RIGHT?

A REINDEER!?

YOU MEAN, LIKE THE REINDEER THAT PULL SLEDS?

Y- YES

THEY SHOULD'VE HAD A BOY DO THAT

DID THE TEACHER PICK YOUR ROLE? I WONDER WHAT SHE WAS THINKING

N- NO

I WANTED TO DO IT

OH...

OH, I SEE, DEAR ME... I I'M SORRY..

SIGH...

IT'S.. AWKWARD ...

That concludes the Cherry Class's play.

CLAP CLAP

...the Strawberry Class's play

Next up...

GASP

FUME

MASAMUNE IS LATE.

FUME

WHAT COULD BE TAKING HIM SO LONG?

MASAMUNE-KUN MADE IT FOR ME

OH, MY, WHAT A CUTE COSTUME. OH..

WHERE DID YOU BUY IT?

OH, REALLY?

COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT SORT OF THING IS ALL HE'S EVER REALLY BEEN GOOD AT .

Really.

Well, he's always slow.

D-DON'T WORRY MASAMUNE WILL COME SOON

M-

MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHEN THE CHRISTMAS PARTY IS OVER, LET'S GO SHOPPING TO GET YOU A CHRISTMAS PRESENT, KOHARU-CHAN

I WONDER WHAT YOU'D LIKE..

.....

OH?

That's too bad.

WHAT DID YOU GET?

SANTA ALREADY GAVE ME MY PRESENT FOR THIS YEAR...

MASAMUNE-KUN!

dash

WELL, I'M OFF, MASAMUNE-KUN'S MAMA

G-

GOOD LUCK, KOHARU-CHAN!

OH ..

STRAWBERRY CLASS, PLEASE GATHER AROUND!

Well, now, let's hurry up and hand out these presents.

.....

Let's go, reindeer!

CLICK
CLICK
I GUESS IT'D BE BEST TO USE ALL THE FILM, EVEN IF IT'S ALL OF THAT SAD

TWITCH

SHE'S A GOOD GIRL, THAT KOHARU-CHAN.

HER MOTHER MUST BE A KIND WOMAN IT WOULD BE NICE TO MEET HER...

YOU WERE A HUGE HELP TODAY

THANK YOU, MOM

I'M AFRAID...

THAT SHE WAS IN AN ACCIDENT LAST SPRING...

EH ?

THE FIRST THING I GAVE [redacted] CHEAP LADYBUG ERASER I MADE...

IT MADE HER REALLY HAPPY.

SO I MADE THEM THE NEXT DAY, AND THE NEXT..

AH!

THE OTHER DAY WHEN I WAS MAKING KOHARU-CHAN'S COSTUME,

I WENT TO HER GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE TO BORROW THE SEWING MACHINE

I WAS REALLY SURPRISED..

SHE...

HAD SAVED AND TREASURED ALL OF THOSE ERASERS

I WAS SO SELF-CENTERED

SHE SUDDENLY DECIDED TO STUDY ABROAD.. AND WHILE I WAS CLINGING TO THIS ONE-SIDED RESENTMENT TOWARDS HER FOR LEAVING ME

YOU KNOW, MOM, I NEVER KNEW

I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT MY OWN CHILD OR HER FEELINGS UNTIL SHE WAS GONE..

SHE WAS RAISING KOHARU-CHAN ALONE IN A FOREIGN LAND...

EVEN THOUGH SHE'S JUST A CHILD, SHE'S ALWAYS WATCHING OUT FOR ME.

KOHARU-CHAN IS ALMOST TOO GOOD OF A GIRL

I MEAN, EVEN TODAY, SHE D.DN'T ASK FOR ANYTHING OR SAY A SINGLE SELFISH THING..

WHENEVER I REALIZE THIS, I FEEL MORE AND MORE MISERABLE ..

IF I CAN EVER BECOME A PROPER FATHER ..

I WONDER ..

WHO KNOWS? BUT..

IT LOOKS LIKE, TO KOHARU-CHAN, YOU'RE THE PERFECT FATHER

YOU'LL BE FINE.

YEAH

THANKS.

YEAH

I TOOK SOME MEDICINE, SO I'M FINE NOW

IS YOUR COLD ALL RIGHT?

MASAMUNE-KUN!

OH, GOOD!

YEAH, SURE.

HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT?

THEY SAID IT'S OKAY TO TAKE AN ORNAMENT FROM THE TREE.

WHY DON'T WE GO GET ONE?

...

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

NONE OF THEM ARE VERY GOOD...

Tch.

OH.

OH, MY...!

My Girl ① END

The 9th Day : FIN

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live With You...
To The 10th Day...

Afterword

I FEEL VERY GLAD AND THANKFUL I GOT THE CHANCE TO DO A BOOK LIKE THIS. IT'S UNSKILLED, ROUGH, AND HASN'T BEEN CONCLUDED YET, BUT IF EVEN A TINY BIT OF IT STAYS WITH YOU, I'LL BE HAPPY.

TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK THE TIME TO GIVE ME THEIR OPINIONS, TO MY MANAGER WHO SUPPORTED ME, AND TO EVERYONE I'VE BECOME INDEBTED TO WHILE MAKING THIS BOOK, I THANK YOU.

SAHARA MIZU, MARCH 2007